

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

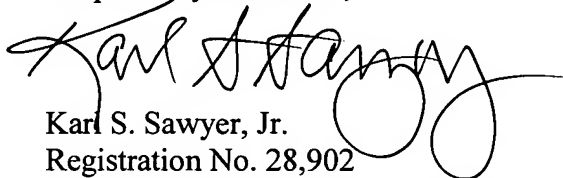
In the Office Action of November 26, 2005, claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,882) in view of Ackermann (U.S. Patent No. 2,986,787). In addition, claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones and Ackermann in view of Wantland (U.S. Patent No. 3,234,616). More specifically, the Office Action asserts that Jones discloses a clip device in a form similar to the present invention, Ackermann teaches the use of a clip device adapted for clamping a plurality of sinuous wires, and Wantland teaches the use of a clip device having a base portion that is indented inwardly in the direction of the legs.

In order for an invention to be rendered obvious, three basic criteria must be met: (i) there must be a suggestion or motivation either in the cited references or in the knowledge of one generally skilled in the art to modify the cited references or to combine the cited references, (ii) there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and (iii) the cited prior art references when combined must teach or suggest all the claim limitations of Applicant's invention. *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure*, §2143, (May 2004). Based on the foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 9 to define the present invention as a combination of a plurality of sinuous wires and a clip device, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 9 are not rendered obvious by Jones, Ackermann, and/or Wantland since the cited references, when combined, do not teach or suggest all of the claimed features of Applicant's invention (i.e., the combination of a plurality of sinuous wires and a clip device). Consequently, Applicant's claims 1 and 9 should be patentable.

Further, since claim 1 now stands as patentable, all claims depending, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 should be patentable. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance.

For all the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application as amended is patentable. Favorable reconsideration of this application and passage to issuance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl S. Sawyer, Jr.', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

Karl S. Sawyer, Jr.
Registration No. 28,902
Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman, LLP
214 N. Tryon Street
Hearst Tower, 47th Floor
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Telephone (704) 331-5792
-- Attorney for Applicant